



RECEIVED
OCT 28 2003
TC 1700

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing Of The Claims:

1-46 (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point to form a liquefied embedding medium; and

applying an immiscible~~non-organic~~ liquid to the biological sample to separate the liquefied embedding medium from the biological sample, ~~wherein said non-organic liquid has a density greater than that of the liquefied embedding medium.~~

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the immiscible~~non-organic~~ liquid comprises water.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the immiscible~~non-organic~~ liquid comprises a detergent.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

51. (previously amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of octylphenoxypolyethoxy (5) ethanol, polyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan, polyoxyethelene(23) dodecyl ether, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the embedding medium

comprises paraffin wax.

53. (currently amended) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

applying an immiscible~~non-organic~~ liquid to a biological sample; and

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point thereby separating the embedding medium from the biological sample with the immiscible liquid.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the immiscible~~non-organic~~ liquid comprises water.

55. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the immiscible~~non-organic~~ liquid comprises a detergent.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

57. (previously amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of octylphenoxypolyethoxy (5) ethanol, polyoxyethylene(20)sorbitan, polyoxyethylene(23) dodecyl ether, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the embedding medium is paraffin wax.

59-74. (withdrawn)